
◆ RIFLEFIRE ◆

Volume 6 Issue 4: 20th April 2003

PO Box 752 Ringwood 3134 Vic. Australia

Newsletter of the **Victorian Colonial Infantry Association Inc**

BEECHWORTH RIFLE CORPS.

— | ← → | —
May 5 1894

Received from Mr. W Andrews
the sum of five shillings being Subscription for
4 quarter ending March 31st 1895
£ s d

Entrance Fee.....	
Subscription	50
Total £	50

Joseph Wood
Treasurer.

Incorporating Mt Alexander Rifles

President: Garry McKellar-James
 Public Officer Ph. (03)9873-3347
 0408733349
 E-mail: gmj@eisa.net.au

Vice President: Geoff Gleadall
 Ph. (03)9563-8869
 E-mail: geoffgleadall@msn.com.au

Secretary: Tom Corformat
Editor: Ph. (03)9879-9303
 E-mail: tcorformat@eisa.net.au

Treasurer: Ian Douglas
 Ph. (03) 9729-1508
 E-mail: idouglas@melbpc.org.au

All Membership enquires, and, All contributions to the Newsletter to be sent to:

The Secretary

Victorian Colonial Infantry Association Inc.

P.O. Box 752 Ringwood 3134 Vic. Australia

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

1. To research the history of the Victorian Colonial Infantry Regiments with particular reference to the Volunteer Rifles in the period 1865 - 1895, and particularly the Mt Alexander Rifles Regiment.
2. To establish & maintain a living history group to recreate the Mt Alexander Rifles in the 1865 - 1895 period.
3. To research and preserve the skills and attributes of the 19th Century Rifleman.
4. To provide a resource to other historical organizations and the Community at large.

Cover Picture

Original receipt from the Beechworth Rifle Corps. 1894

Next Meeting

T.B.A

Website Addresses:

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~vciainc>

<http://users.netwit.net.au/%7Eianmac/alex.html>

THE EDITORIAL

Welcome to the New Year.

Things have been a bit quiet on the Public Appearances front, due largely to the Public Liability problems. This is in hand to be fixed.

The last meeting was held on the 6th March 2003, where a number of points were raised.

Expert soldiers are predictable. The world is full of dangerous amateurs.

The ongoing problem of recruitment was discussed, and one suggestion was that we aim for National coverage instead of confining ourselves to Victoria. A change of name would be required for this, one suggestion was "Australian Colonial Infantry Association".

Sunday 9th March saw us at the reunion of the descendants of the Wills family, of Burke & Wills fame as Mt Alexander Rifles provided Honor Guard at the original funeral.

Our index of the members of the Victorian Defense Force who were listed in the gazette between 1854 – 1901 is now complete, we will now be looking at publishing, probably next year to coincide with the 150th Anniversary of the formation of the VDF.

The date of the Little River encampment this year has been put back a week to the 12th-13th July 2003

This edition of the newsletter will be going out as a .pdf file to all of you who have email addresses, in order to reduce costs. Should anyone still require a hard copy please advise the secretary.

To our Library we have 2 new additions:

*Complete pay scales for the Victorian Defense Force for Jan. 1894.

* Rules & Regulations for the "Hobart Town Masonic Volunteer Rifle Company" printed 1860.

We have again been invited to attend the Victoria Day celebrations at the Melbourne Town hall on Tuesday July 1st.

Meet at the Town Hall at 10am for a 10.30am start.

President's Report, Christmas Holidays 02/03.

This was a very quiet Christmas Holiday period. The November Living History Dinner was postponed from November to February or March, then a certain City Council transmuted "Saluting the Flag" to "frightening the horses" at local Australia Day celebrations; and then forgot to return phone calls from both Bugler Douglas and myself in relation to its annual Festival.

An adjoining City Council gave me the same treatment in the same period, in relation to contact with their Historical people. I think that a little personal visiting is called for.

Thanks go to the Event Committee for their work with Little River 2003: we have expressions of interest from quite a few groups including some "tin shirt" re-enactors. Imagine the photo-opportunities then!!

To enable a large number of the intended participants to celebrate finishing their Uni Semester exams, LR-2003 was slipped from the first to the second week-end in July. Unfortunately this date conflicts with Bastille Day (Mont Delancy) which obviates all the Napoleonic groups at LR-2003. The 3rd w/e is out of school holidays, and September ones are Taminick, so I suggest we consider shifting LR-2004 to the Easter school holidays.

Late in 2002 I sent a letter to the National Australian Museum in Can'tberra, introducing the Colonial Volunteers and particularly the Victorian ones. I send similar introductions to other local historical groups. Other than the odd *Out-Of-Office* in January, to date only Nunawading Historical Society has even acknowledged; expressing surprise at and no knowledge of a Nunawading Corps being gazetted in 1881. I will continue such efforts with, in accordance with current politics, an emphasis on research at the expense of what was originally intended of our Defence Forces.

*Odd objects always
attract fire.
Never lurk behind
one.*

Secretaries Report

While things have been quiet lately, There has been a lot going on behind the scenes.

As I mentioned in the Editorial, Public Liability is now a major concern. To this end we have applied to become affiliated with the Sporting Shooters Association Australia (Vic.) (SSAA). Should this be successful, we will be covered by their insurance for all official events.

They are now in receipt of all the information that they required, and a decision will be made at their next meeting, later in April, with affiliation becoming effective from the 1st May 2003.

In March I received a letter from a person who was researching his Grandfather who he had been told was "a Lieutenant in the Victorian Army".

He had been to the Genealogical Society of Victoria, who were not able to assist him at all, but gave him a copy of the handout from the talk I gave them last September.

With our index now complete, it was a simple matter of checking his name.

I was able to write back and confirm that his grandfather was a Lt in the Victorian Rangers and give him page numbers for when he was gazette. Armed with this information, I was also able to tell him what Coy. he was attached to and his date of birth, as per the Victorian Military list.

March 22nd saw Gary & I attend the Arms and Militaria show as observers. The organizers set aside a area where re-enactment groups can set up displays and prizes awarded for the best display.

While we were not able to present a display this time it should be considered for the next show on the 26th – 27th July.

Prices on the period items we were on the lookout for remain steady, with very few Sniders available.

Initial look at the new firearms legislation that is due to come in on July 1 is not promising. I am still awaiting clarification, but it appears that antique firearms that were previously exempt will now have to be registered. It is unclear if this only applies to handguns or all firearms. Anyone with 5 or more firearms will need to have a monitored alarm system, this is down from the 15 under the existing legislation.

It is with regret that I learned of the passing away of Keith Perks. Keith was the man who ran Thin Red Line, a reenacting supply firm in England. This was the firm where we were able to obtain parts for our uniforms that were not available anywhere else. His family will make a decision soon on what will happen to the business.

A decision was made at the last meeting to go with the white helmets, as we have a local source of these, until we can get the proper blue ones. While we can get most of the parts needed for the helmets, badges are a problem. For Buckles we will use the British General Service buckle, again, until we can get a supply of Victorian ones.

The only question is: did OR's have the Cruciform base or the Dome base?

The March edition of "Sabertache" the journal of the Military Historical Society of Australia, has published my letter regarding the claim in one of their articles about Sydney University Regiment being the oldest in Australia. I sent them a letter pointing out that Melbourne University Regiment was gazetted 16 years prior. The only problem I have with it is that they misspelt my name.

The following is reprinted from “The Watch” Newsletter of the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment 1815 (Australia) Inc.

You know you’re a reenactor when

Thanks again to Shane Nedjekovic. Don’t forget these abridged gems....

- * Sleeping outside in the mud and rain is fun.
- * You can’t sing without a mug of something in your hand
- * You can spot 100% wool at 300 meters
- * You have spent \$300 on clothes that went out of style 150 years ago
- * You have ever lovingly fondled your muskets
- * You consider life’s essentials as black powder and what hose are correct
- * Your employer says-”Oh your going to one of those things again”
- * You drive your neighbors dog crazy with fife and bagpipe music
- * You have stock piled lot’s of candles by the back door “just i case”
- * You travel over 200 miles to sleep in a tent at an historic site
- * You have worn wool when the temperature has been over 40° repeatedly
- * Your house needs a coat of paint and routine maintenance
- * You have 3 muskets and associated bits stacked in a corner of the lounge
- * You have made a career decision based on your weekend availability
- * You earn a good wage / salary and are still broke
- * You have made a vehicle purchase decision on how everything fits in
- * On Monday morning your work colleagues comment on the sunburn line across your forehead
- * No one will attend historical war movies or plays with you
- * Your \$20,000 car sits in the weather so your \$400 tent has the garage
- * You spend more on your reenacting wardrobe than on your regular clothes
- * The postman thinks you are an arms broker or a member of several armed forces
- * Your children correct their history teacher’s
- * You fly strange flags and banner’s
- * You win fancy dress parties hands down
- * You need to watch your favorite historical series when you get home from an event so as to enable you to come down!

If any of these fit you, then you are re-enactor!

.....
The picture below says it all. A gem from the WWW

Resistance



